

Hunt-Brewster House  
18 Old South Street  
Northampton  
Hampshire County  
Massachusetts

HABS No. MASS-644

HABS  
MASS  
8-NORTH  
5-

PHOTOGRAPHS  
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

Historic American Buildings Survey  
National Park Service  
Eastern Office, Division of Design and Construction  
143 South Third Street  
Philadelphia 6, Pennsylvania

## HUNT-BREWSTER HOUSE

HABS  
MASS  
2-NORTH  
5-

Street Address: 18 Old South Street, Northampton, Hampshire County, Massachusetts.

Present Owner: Foster-Farrar Company, 162 Main Street, Northampton, Massachusetts.

Present Occupant: Miss Gertrude Brewster, until December 1, 1959.

Present Use: Residence, until December 1, 1959. Future use uncertain; perhaps will be razed.

Brief Statement of Significance: Large house of early 19th century, inhabited by two of the leading families of the city.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

## A. Physical History

1. Original and subsequent owners: Dr. Jonathan Hunt; inherited by David Hunt; then Dr. Daniel Thompson, son-in-law of David Hunt. Purchased in 1881 by Charles Henry Brewster; after his death, it passed into the hands of his daughters. Purchased in 1959 by the Foster-Farrar Company (Hardware Dealers). [Interview with Miss Gertrude Brewster].
2. Date of erection: Thought to be around 1810.
3. Notes on alterations and additions: Window sash and front door altered in the late 19th century. Arch opened up between two main rooms north of stair hall, late 19th century. Kitchen wing added in 1881. [Interview with Miss Gertrude Brewster.]
4. Sources of information: Interview with Miss Gertrude Brewster, former owner and for many years a resident. August 30, 1959.

Prepared by Harley J. McKee, Architect  
National Park Service  
August 1959

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

## A. General Statement

1. Architectural Character: Representative large house of the early 19th century. Commanding exterior aspect; interior has some good details.

2. Condition of Fabric: Basically sound; service wing deteriorating. Exterior woodwork in need of painting.

B. Technical Description of Exterior

1. Overall dimensions: Two stories and attic. Square, with service wing. Main section approximately 38' x 40'.
2. Foundations: Brick; hidden by wooden skirt of porch.
3. Wall construction: Load-bearing brick. Flat-brick-arched lintels. Service wing of wood frame and clapboards.
4. Chimneys: Brick. Four in main section, one in wing. Main chimneys located in north and south walls.
5. Openings
  - a. Doorways and doors: Main doorway altered in late 19th century.
  - b. Windows and shutters: Double-hung sash. Shutters with louvers. Stone sills. Sash are relatively modern.
6. Porches: One-story porch around all four sides, with square Greek Doric columns and entablature, wooden floor. Modern concrete steps leading to entrance.
7. Roof
  - a. Shape, covering: Gable roof, with pediment on west and east elevations. Sheet metal covering; some asphalt shingles.
  - b. Cornice, eaves: Greek Doric entablature all around main section. Wood.
  - c. Dormers: None.

C. Technical Description of Interiors

1. Floor Plan: Central stair hall, two main rooms each side (three each side on second floor). Service wing in rear, containing kitchen. Kitchen was in basement before construction of service wing in 1881.
2. Stairways: Straight flight. Open. Round rail, square balusters. Round newel post with carving on lower part (perhaps conventionalized pineapple motif). Rail terminates in scroll with rosette, in a vertical plane.

3. Flooring: Wide boards; soft wood.
4. Wall and ceiling finish: Plaster, papered.
5. Doorways and doors: 4-panel; panels all horizontal.
6. Trim: Moulded wood; corner blocks with carved rosettes. Wide wood base mouldings. Fireplaces in two front rooms have fluted Doric columns, full entablature. Other fireplaces have pilasters.
7. Hardware: Brass latches. Some doors have knobs. Butts.
8. Lighting: Electric. No original fixtures.
9. Heating: Originally by fireplaces, now central steam.

D. Site

1. General setting and orientation: On large yard, now encroached upon by nearby railroad, commercial buildings and apartment houses, structure faces West on Old South Street.
2. Enclosures: Picket fence around part of yard.
3. Outbuildings: None, now.
4. Walks, driveways etc.: Gravel driveway curves up past front porch entrance.
5. Landscaping: Informal. Terrace graded up to front side. Cast-iron bird-bath. Trellis. Some division of garden areas by hedges. Evidence that it was once landscaped according to a plan, but no clear indication of when.

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